

**MONTANA SUPREME COURT
COMMISSION ON SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANTS**

MINUTES: FEBRUARY 8, 2006

The Commission meeting began at 1:35 pm at the State Law Library. All members were present except Mark Yeshe. As Yeshe has not been active on the Commission Co-Chair Judy Meadows said she would follow-up with him. New member Corbin Howard was introduced.

The members were informed about the activities of the legislative Interim Law & Justice Committee, the hearings that have been held, and the testimony various members of the Commission have given. A subcommittee of the Interim Committee comprised of Senators Perry and Cromley and Representatives Stoker and Windham will hold a hearing on February 17th to decide what to include in the initial review draft of an LJIC bill to support access to justice for pro se litigants in civil legal matters. Tara Veazey will present the proposal which she and Chief Justice Gray developed. The Commission will support each element of the proposal. It mirrors all the elements of a statewide self-help program that the Commission discussed at our fall 2005 retreat.

The future rule and support for the Commission will be determined by legislative and court support. We will know more in a few months.

Michele Snowberger and Tammy Hinderman reported on the teleconference they participated in on form development. Maria Mindlin is still committed to developing some forms for us that will be at the appropriate level of readability. She has started on name change forms, which need more work. The Commission discussed the dissolution forms that have been adopted by Ravalli County. It was suggested that the Commission might adopt the County's Response form, as we do not have one.

Meadows brought to the attention of the commission the 2006 Pro Se Regional Conferences, and asked who could attend if funding were available. Snowberger expressed an interest. Meadows said that she would find out if there would be either Court or Justice Foundation funding available to support Snowberger's attendance at the meeting in San Francisco March 16th & 17th. Veazey will be attending with at least partial support from Legal Services.

Meadows said that she has yet to talk with Bob Lukes about the copyright issue.

Veazey and Snowberger will conduct clerk of court training along the High Line and in Billings in the spring. Meadows and Snowberger will do Kalispell in June.

The meeting concluded at 3:30 pm.